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Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 M-02

A-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CPR-02 SY-04 EUR-25

DRC-01 /092 W
---------- 130711
R 261020Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4971

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR
SUBJECT: GOCAR SEARCH OF DIPLOMATS

REF STATE 159725

1. I APPRECIATE GUIDANCE PROVIDED REFTEL. SITUATION HAS EVOLVED SOME SINCE DISPATCH OF EMBTEL 0814. AS REPORTED THEREIN FONMIN POTOLOT INFORMED FRENCH AMBASSADOR HE WOULD RECEIVE DELEGATION FROM DIPLOMATIC CORPS PROTESTING DECREE REQUIRING SEARCH OF ALL DIPLOMATS.

2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DEPARTED BANGUI FOR PARIS CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MISSION CHIEFS ON JULY 15 LEAVING HOLY SEE PRO NUNCIO MARIO TAGLIAFERRI AS ACTING DEAN OF CORPS. AT VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC OCCASIONS HE SOUNDER OUT CHIEFS OF MISSION AND ASCERTAINED THAT SEARCHES WERE CONTINUING BUT THAT CHIEFS OF MISSION FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WERE RELUCTANT TO AUTHORIZE DELEGATION. THEREFORE, ON JULY 23 HE WENT TO SEE POTOLOT ALONE. HE INFORMED POTOLOT THAT IN OPINION OF MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS CAR SEARCHES WERE CLEAR VIOLATION OF VIENNA CONVENTION AND THAT STRONG SENTIMENT EXISTED AGAINST CONTINUATION OF THIS PROCEDURE. TAGLIAFERRI WARNED THAT GOCAR WOULD HAVE TO EXPECT ITS PERSONNEL TO BE SEARCHED IN COUNTRIES WHERE RECIPROCITY PREVAILED AND THAT POOR
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IMPRESSION CREATED BY GOCAR WOULD LEAD TO LOSS OF RESPECT

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INTERNATIONALLY. POTOLOT REPLIED THAT DECREE WAS AUTHORIZED DURING HIS ABSENCE AND THAT HE WAS WELL AWARE THAT IT WAS CONTRARY TO VIENNA CONVENTION.HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY SOUGHT TO HAVE IT AMENDED BUT PRESIDENT BOKASSA TURNED HIM DOWN. HOWEVER, HE DOES HOPE TO OBTAIN INFORMAL EXCEPTION FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION. HE ALSO TOLD TAGLIAFERRI THAT A NOTE WOULD BE CIRCULATED TO ALL MISSIONS REQUESTING FULL LIST OF PERSONS WITH DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS AND ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENT OF EIGHT DAYS' ADVANCE NOTICE FOR DEPARTURE FROM COUNTRY. SINCE PTOLOT GAVE NO INDCATION THAT NEW REQUIREMENTS WOULD LEAD TO REDUCTION OF SEARCHES AND SINCE GOCAR ALREADY HAS INFO REGARDING DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS, PRO NUNCIO BELIEVES HE WAS MERELY PLAYING FOR TIME WHILE HE CONTINUES EFFORTS TO PERSUADE BOKASSA TO AMELIORATE HIS STAND.

3. IN VIEW OF REFTEL I TOLD TAGLIAFERRI THAT WE TOO SUPPORTED HIS EFFORTS WITH POTOLOT. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FURTHER ACTION ON MY PART WOULD BE ADVISABLE AT THIS JUNCTURE.

DALE

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